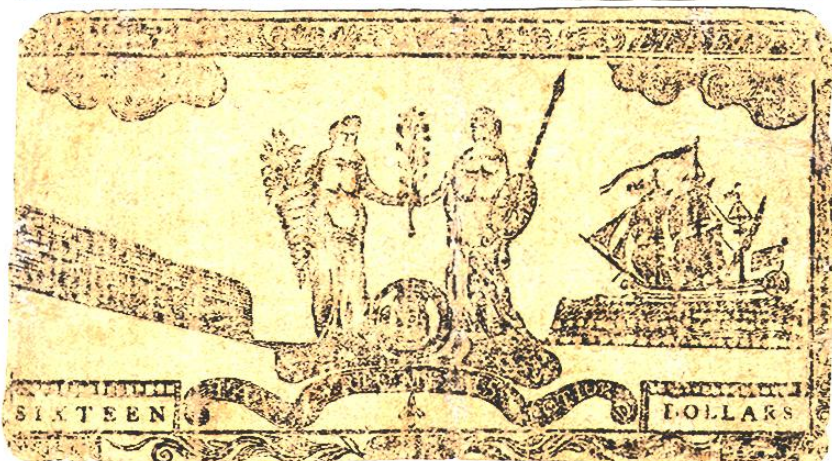
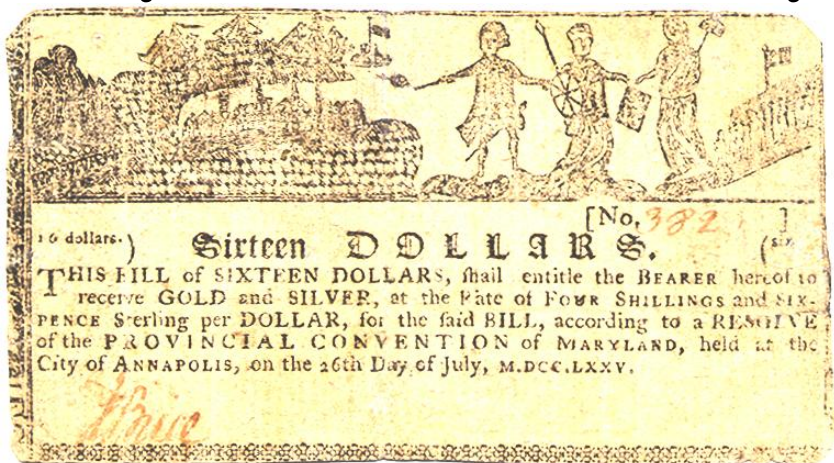


The Maryland Numismatist



Maryland Colonial Currency



Spring, 2010 Volume 38 – No. 1

**The
Maryland
State
Numismatic
Association,
Inc.**



The *MARYLAND NUMISMATIST* is the quarterly publication of MSNA and is distributed to all members in good standing without additional cost.

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Planned for upcoming issues:

Summer 2010 — Maryland Indian Peace Medal

Autumn 2010 — Calendar Medals

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President's Message

With a very productive board meeting held in January, MSNA is off to a nice start on a fairly aggressive agenda for 2010, but we also entered 2010 with a pause to recognize and remember Bill Ayres and all his steadfast, invaluable, selfless contributions towards this organization over many years. Bill left this life on January 5. MSNA representatives attended his memorial service held January 16 in Fork, Maryland.



As mentioned in my last letter, MSNA is transitioning from an organization primarily focused each year on holding an annual coin show to one focused on collaboration with, and support of, area numismatic organizations and other numismatic endeavors. In 2009 we inaugurated our Distinguished Lecture Series in association with the Whitman Coin and Currency Show. We continue the Distinguished Lecture Series this year, having nearly completed the process of finalizing arrangements for another exceptional program in conjunction with the upcoming Whitman show in Baltimore. MSNA is also hosting the exhibit program at the March Whitman Show. More detailed information on these important 2010 events are contained in this issue.

We are also steaming full ahead on our initiative to dramatically increase the MSNA presence on the internet. The process of securing the website domain name www.MDStateNumisAssn.org is underway. More importantly, we already have a few members, highly qualified in web design and application, who have volunteered expertise and time towards getting a MSNA website up and running. Along the way here, we certainly would like to hear from any of our members or member clubs willing to contribute design and functionality reviews, ideas, or recommendations. Our goal is to launch a quality-laden website that all members and member clubs having internet access will find useful and inspiring. We will keep you posted on our progress and needs in this initiative.

It has been a long and snowy winter for most Marylanders. I know most of us are itching to strike out into springtime. But before you become too involved with going places and doing things to shake off the cabin fever, take some leisurely time to read and enjoy the remainder of this Spring issue of the Maryland Numismatist.



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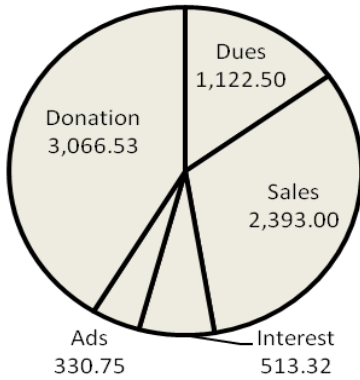
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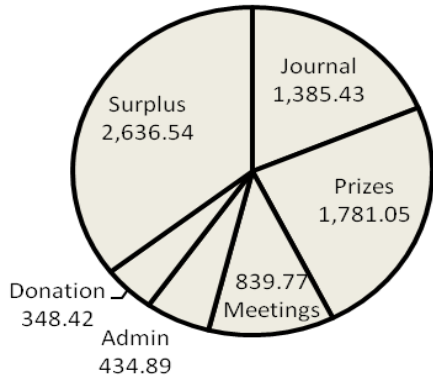
by Simcha Kuritzky, CPA

As the new MSNA treasurer, I've converted over our records to double-entry accrual bookkeeping in a database of my own design. Below are two pie charts that show our results for fiscal year 2009 (ended November 30).

Revenue



Expenses



Each circle represents the same number of dollars; because we had more revenue than expense, the difference is shown as a surplus in the upper left corner of the expenses pie chart. The largest impact of using accrual versus cash basis of accounting is on life memberships--half of our dues revenue is now from earned life membership from payments received years ago. Sales are primarily of raffle tickets, but also some souvenir sheets and medals. Prize expense includes raffle, exhibit, and door prizes. Meetings includes the Distinguished Lecturer gifts and honorary life membership. The donation is a bank error where a check cleared the payee's bank but not ours, and the account is now closed.

The bank error is the only reason we had a profit last year. Thus, it's important for all members to buy more raffle tickets this year. MSNA has sent each member club 30 raffle tickets and requested \$20 in return, giving each club at least \$5 profit (if all tickets were sold at 6 for \$5). Last year, the Montgomery County Coin Club was unable to sell all of their tickets, purchased the remainder, and ended up winning third prize (one-tenth ounce gold). That prize would have gone to one of our members if they bought all our tickets, or it could have gone to one of a number of other clubs who didn't send their \$20 and ticket stubs in.

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Maryland Colonial and State Currency

by Scott Barman

Introduction

When the British first founded colonies in North America, currency was limited to coins whose value was based on their metal content. When the King taxed his colonies to pay for wars in Europe, the colonies looked for ways of financing their own governments to provide services.

Since the colonies did not have the ability to coin money, they issued paper notes. These notes functioned as currency but actually were bills of credit, short-term public loans to the government. For the first time, the money had no intrinsic value but was valued at the rate issued by the government of the colony in payment of debt. Every time the colonial government needed money to pay creditors, they authorized the printing of a specified quantity and denomination of notes. Laws authorizing the issuance of notes were called emissions. The emission laws also included a tax that was used to repay the bills of credit with interest.

As taxes were paid using the paper currency, the paper was retired. As the notes were removed from circulation, that meant less payments the government had to make. On the maturity date, people brought their notes to authorized agents who paid off the loan. Agents then turned the notes over to the colonial government for reimbursement plus a commission. Sometimes, colonies could not pay back the loan. They instead passed another emission law to cover the debt owed from the previous emission plus further operating expenses, buying back mature notes with new notes. The colonists accepted this system since it was easier than barter and there were never enough coins to meet commercial needs.

Maryland was one of the more successful colonies. The Chesapeake Bay gave Maryland a robust economy as trading post for goods from both Maryland and Virginia, primarily tobacco and other crops sent to Europe. Starting in 1733, there were eight emissions from the Maryland colony with four during the Revolutionary War. The last emission was in 1780 with a successful payment of obligations prior to its maturity date.

The Maryland Colony

Maryland was home to the Lenape, Nanticoke, Powhatan, Shawnee, Susquehannock, Tutelo and Saponi tribes. The first exploration of the area now known as the Eastern Shore was by John Cabot in 1497 with funding from the King of England. In 1524 Giovanni di Verrazano,

sailing under the French flag, passed the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay. In 1608 John Smith entered the bay and explored the Potomac River.

George Calvert, the First Lord of Baltimore, sailed from Newfoundland to Virginia in 1629. Calvert travelled up the Chesapeake Bay and settled in the area now known as Saint Mary's City. Calvert applied to Charles I for a charter in 1630 but died in April 1632 before receiving it. On June 20, 1632, Charles I granted a charter for the colony to Cecil Calvert, the Second Lord of Baltimore. Charles I declared that the colony would be called Maryland, named for the Queen Consort Henrietta Maria.

Originally, the charter included the entire eastern shore of the Chesapeake Bay. When it was discovered that Virginians had crossed the bay to settle the southern tip of the Eastern Shore, the charter was modified to include the Eastern Shore only as far south as a line drawn east from the Potomac River. The Maryland Charter was legally a rental of the land from the King. The rental fee was set at one-fifth of all gold and silver found and an annual delivery of two Native American arrows. Payment was to be sent to the royal castle at Windsor every Easter. Because the King legally owned the land, the Calvert family was allowed to pass the designation of royalty down through the generations.

Maryland's First Issues

King George II named Charles Calvert the Fifth Lord of Baltimore in 1727, and Charles appointed himself Maryland's governor in 1732, succeeding his brother, Benedict Calvert. When Charles took office, the colonial treasury was in need of funding. He used his political connections in England to authorize and fund the first emission of bills of credit in the Maryland colony.

Calvert arranged for the printing of notes in England to replace low quality tobacco leaves that were circulating as currency. The notes were issued in denominations based on the British pound sterling of 20 shillings: 1/- (one shilling), 1/6 (one shilling 6 pence), 2/6, 5/-, 10/-, 15/-, and 20/-. The first issue consisted of £90,000 in bills of credit that were issued as legal tender for most debts except for fees due to a minister or an officer. Each taxpayer was to be given 30/- in notes in return for burning 150 pounds of tobacco currency. The notes were to be redeemed in 1748 with profits through Calvert's investments in Bank of England stock that was purchased from the proceeds of a tax on tobacco exports. The notes were engraved in England and the paper was watermarked "Maryland." When issued, the notes were hand dated with two signers.



All photos courtesy of the University of Notre Dame Robert Gore, Jr. Numismatic Endowment.

Following that first issue, the Maryland Assembly voted to issue smaller emissions for specific purposes. For example, £5,000 was authorized in 1740 to help support a British expedition to the Spanish West Indies. This emission used the stock of unused notes from the 1733 issue but was signed with the current date. In 1749, the Maryland Assembly issued £60,000 in new notes, printed in England using the same plates as the 1733 emission except that the words “New Bill” were added below the denomination.

During the French and Indian War, the British government expected the affected colonies to contribute men and money. Royal Governor Horatio Sharpe asked the legislature to loan £2,000 to the war effort, to be used as rewards for enemy scalps. This emission used the same notes that were backed by a tax on carriage and wagon wheels, import duties on wine and rum, import duties on slaves, and license fees for peddlers. A further emission of £40,000 was authorized to pay for soldiers and the building of defenses to protect Maryland colonists. To support the loan, the Assembly added taxes to bachelors, billiard tables, legal documents, land, and also import taxes on horses, pitch, tar, and turpentine. An emission of £650 was authorized to help the British government pay gifts to allied native nations who fought in the war and a £3,000 loan to Virginia to help their reparations for the war.

The last emission issued in pounds sterling was for £30,000 for retiring old debt. Rather than use English printers, the Assembly had Jonas Green of Annapolis print these notes. Green, who was Maryland’s official document printer for 24 years until his death in 1767, used Benjamin Franklin’s nature print anti-counterfeiting technology. After Green’s death, his widow Anne Catherine Green took over the printing operations that also included printing the Annapolis newspaper.

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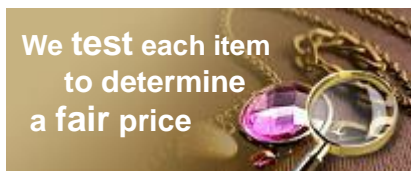
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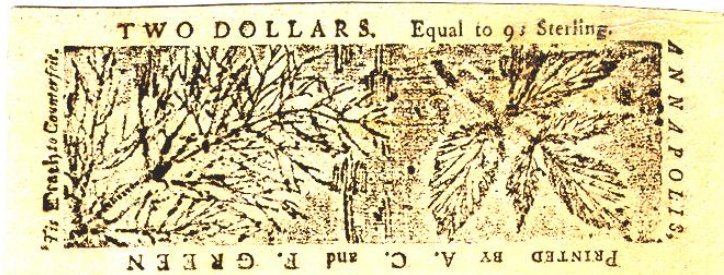
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Issue of 1767

Beginning in 1767, Maryland colonial notes were changed from the British system of pounds sterling to the Spanish dollar since it was the specie most used in the colony. Notes were issued at the London rate of 4/6 per dollar (or 1/- = $\$2/9$). On November 1, 1766, the Assembly authorized \$173,733 in non-legal tender notes to replace previous issues and pay remaining debts on the French and Indian War. All previous notes were declared invalid and were redeemed using the proceeds from sales of Bank of England stock, and the remaining stock was used to back this emission. The law passed by the Assembly closed the Loan Office to prepare for the reissuance of notes. Notes issued under this law were dated January 1, 1767 and issued from a new Treasurer of the Western Shore based in Annapolis who was responsible for the colony's finances.

Anti-counterfeiting

Counterfeiting was rampant by the mid-18th century. In order to combat the problem, Benjamin Franklin devised the nature print, an imprint of a leaf or other natural item with its unpredictable patterns and fine lines to make it more difficult to copy.

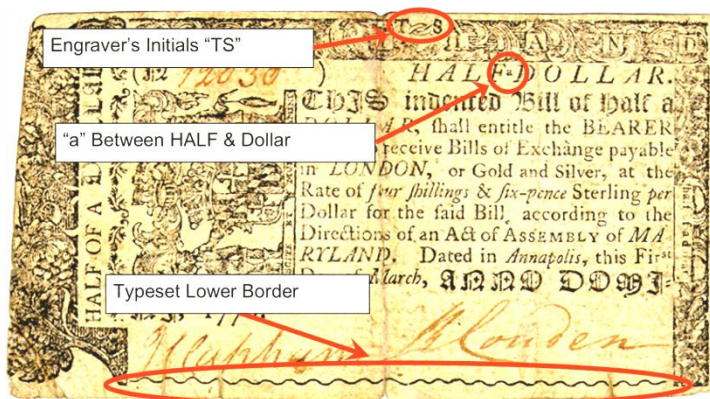


To create a nature print, Franklin placed a leaf on a damp cloth. The cloth was placed on top of a bed of soft plaster that pressed the leaf into the plaster. Once the plaster hardened, it had a negative impression of the leaf. Molten copper was then poured over the plaster to make the printing plate. Franklin first used nature prints for the 1737 New Jersey emission. He also used different leaves for different denominations to further thwart the efforts of potential counterfeiters.

Jonas Green originally designed these nature prints for the January 1, 1767 emission, but William Green used the same prints for the 1770 issue. Other anti-counterfeiting measures included using random wavy (indented) borders that had to match the original stub book, elaborate

engravings, random punctuation, and superfluous characters. The following are some of the special characters by denomination:

- \$¹/₉ A colon is used after "Annapolis".
- \$¹/₆ Commas are inserted between Roman numerals.
- \$²/₉ A comma rather than a period appears after "Maryland".
- \$¹/₃ Carets appear under the "h" in "Third" and both "e"s in "Bearer".
A cedilla is used under the first "c" in "according". A small "J" is used as a comma after "Dollar".
- \$¹/₂ A small "a" is used between "half" and "dollar" while there is an accent mark over the "a" in "Exchange".
- \$²/₃ A caret is added under the "h" in "Thirds" and an acute accent is used over the "a" in "Exchange".
- \$1 Both "N"s in the word "INDENTED" are rotated.
- \$2 A period is used over the "a" in "Rate".
- \$4 A caret appears under the third "the" and the "N"s in "London" are rotated.
- \$6 Three type sizes are used in "MARYLAND" and a center dot follows "Assembly".
- \$8 The "d" in "London" is broken and an accent mark is used instead of a comma in "DOLLARS".



Issue of March 1, 1770

With money in demand, an emission of \$318,000 in indented bills without legal tender status was used for loans which came due between October 10, 1781 and April 10, 1782. The dollar was tariffed at 4/6 sterling or equivalent in gold or silver. These notes were similar to the Sparrow/Green release of 1767 except they listed the printers as A.C. and W. Green (Anne Catherine Green and her son William). Jonas Green

had died three years earlier. Each bill had two signers, who were Robert Couden, an Annapolis dry goods merchant and mayor of Annapolis from 1786–87, and John Clapham, landowner in western Maryland who served as sheriff (tax collector) of Anne Arundel County from 1770–72. These two went into private business together in 1772.

Last Colonial Issue of April 10, 1774

The Assembly authorized an emission of \$480,000 of non-legal tender bills to be dated and issued on April 10, 1774. This would be the last colonial issue before the Revolutionary War. The authorization was for \$266,666 to pay loans, \$80,000 for government expenses, and \$133,334 to be exchanged for worn bills payable from October 10, 1785-April 10, 1786 at the rate of 4/6 sterling per dollar. An act of October 17, 1780 changed the exchange rate for all currency issued before 1776 to forty old dollars for one new dollar to be redeemed by March 20, 1781, after which all colonial notes were voided.

Designs and denominations were similar to the March 1, 1770 issue, except these notes were printed on thinner paper containing mica flakes and used the nature prints from the July 14, 1756 emission. Anne Catherine and William Green printed these notes with border cuts by Thomas Sparrow. Signers of the notes were John Clapham (mentioned above) and William Eddis, a British loyalist, born in England about 1745, who worked for Colonial Governor Sir Robert Eden as the office of surveyor of customs, and fled to England in 1777.

First Continental Issue July 26, 1775

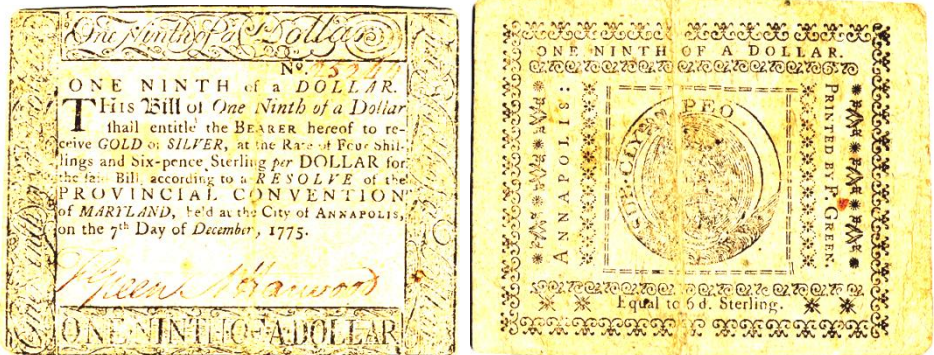
At the start of the Revolution, the Continental Congress allowed the colonies to print their own currency to help pay for the war. The Maryland Assembly approved an issue of \$266,666 to be redeemed in gold or silver at 4/6 sterling per dollar by January 1, 1786. Backed by £100,000 still on account at the Bank of England, the emission was used to promote the manufacture of gunpowder. The bills were printed by Frederick Green (another son of Jonas Green) in Annapolis and designed by Annapolis engraver Thomas Sparrow to serve as propaganda supporting the revolution (see illustration on the front cover). On the front of the notes, a personification of America holds a liberty cap and tramples upon a scroll marked SLAVERY. Behind her is a contingent of Continental troops carrying a flag with LIB for Liberty. America presents a petition from the Continental Congress (CONG. PETI.) to Britannia, who carries a spear and shield. Behind Britannia is George III

trampling on the Magna Carta (M CHARTA) as he torches an American city under attack from the British fleet. On the left is a border cut in white letters on black, PRO ARIS ET FOCIS (For altars and the hearth) followed by the initials TS for the engraver. On the right is a border cut stating, AN APPEAL TO HEAVEN. The top line of text to the left is the exchange rate in pounds sterling. On the back, America and Britannia share an olive branch of peace. Below in a scroll is the motto PAX TRIUMPHIS POTIOR (Peace is preferable to victory). In the upper border in white letters on a black background on the left is the engraver's name T SPARROW. On the upper right is the word LIBERTY and in the bottom left corner are the initials FG for the printer Frederick Green.

Signers of these notes were James Brice, Mayor of Annapolis in 1782-83 and 1787-88, he rose to Acting Governor of Maryland in 1792, and helped the colonial government coordinate the financing of the revolutionary war effort; and John Duckett, Jr., Clerk in the lower house of the Colonial Assembly, and also Prince George's County clerk and distributor of currency on the western shore.

Issue of December 7, 1775

To continue to pay for the war, the Maryland Assembly approved an emission of \$535,111. The notes were to be payable by January 1, 1786 in gold or silver at the rate of 4/6 sterling per Continental dollar. Frederick Green printed these notes using new copper plates engraved in Philadelphia. The back depicted an arm holding a shield with the hand clenching the strap of the shield and holding a victory laurel with the motto SUB CLYPEO (Behind the shield).



Signers of these notes were Frederick Green, the printer; Joseph Bruff, goldsmith and jeweler, financier of the war effort including purchaser of arms, and delegate to the colonial House of Delegates; Nicholas

Harwood, Associate Clerk of the Court in Anne Arundel County from 1772–77, who later became Clerk of the same from 1777–1810 and delegate to Maryland's Constitutional Convention of 1776; and Jeremiah Banning, future Talbot County representative to the Convention to ratify the Federal Constitution in 1788.

Issue of August 14, 1776

A follow-up emission of \$535,111 was issued to pay war expenses. These notes were printed using the same plates as the December 7, 1775 issue and were signed by the following authorized clerks: Alexander Irvine, delegate to the Maryland Constitutional Convention of 1776; Richard Tilghman, Jr., financier of the Revolutionary War, fourth son of Col. Richard Tilghman who was an Assembly delegate and judge from Queen Anne's County; Thomas Gassaway, also a war financier, and nephew of Thomas Gassaway, Sr., Sheriff of Anne Arundel County.

Final Continental Issue of July 8, 1780

In what turned out to be the final emission, the Maryland Assembly authorized \$133,333 in legal tender bills paying 5 percent interest. Notes were to be redeemable on May 1, 1786 with the Assembly's standard rate of 4/6 per dollar. The notes were issued by the Treasurer of the Western Shore and were secured by Bank of England stock and confiscated property. These notes were known as "Black Money," because of the heavy black ink Fredrick Green used in their printing.

Conclusion

Maryland was one of the few states to successfully finance its own recovery through trade. Planters and merchants sold tobacco and goods imported into Baltimore for hard currency. Eastern Shore merchants and shippers also acted as brokers for tobacco from Maryland and Virginia growers. Taxes collected from trade allowed Maryland to pay off and retire the 1780 emission debt by 1782. Subsequently, the Maryland General Assembly outlawed the use of paper currency for the payment of state obligations, but they authorized two bond issues for short-term debt obligations in 1782 and 1785. All states stopped issuing currency in 1792 with the passage of the Constitution. As part of a compromise between the states and the new federal government, all existing state-issued notes could be redeemed at a rate of one cent per dollar.

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\$50 Prize Money Offered for Best Article

Write an article for the Maryland Numismatist and be in the running to win \$50 in gift certificates redeemable at the November, 2011 Whitman show in Baltimore. There must be at least three authors who are published in the Winter 2010 or Spring – Autumn 2011 issues, excluding the editor, who is not eligible. All articles (even multiples by the same author) will be entered automatically, and will be judged for quality by a panel chosen by the MSNA board.

Local News



MSNA Past President Carl Shrader passed away on December 11, 2009 at age 81. He served as Secretary from 1981-83, then as Vice President for 1983/84, and President in 1984/85, just in time to serve as the General Chairman of the 1985 ANA convention in Baltimore (the first time since 1916 the ANA held its convention in Baltimore). He held a number of jobs until he entered the field of photography, served briefly in the U.S. military, and later worked 37 years with National Geographic, rising to head their photo-mechanical labs.



MSNA Past President Bill Ayres passed away on January 5 at age 77. He helped organize the Harford Coin Huskers in 1961 and MSNA in 1972. He served as editor of the Journal (1982-2002), as well as all the offices (Secretary 1974-75 and 1987-91, Treasurer 1989/90, Vice President 1992/3, and President 1976 and 1993-95). He was the only person to be President twice, and also the only to serve twice as Secretary.

He secured the Post Office's presence at our annual conventions, distributed souvenir cards, and acted as custodian for MSNA cases, lights, and other property. He served as President of the Harford Coin Huskers, Baltimore Coin Club, and the Perry Hall clubs. He was selected MSNA Numismatist of the Year in 1981 and received an ANA Presidential Award from President Ken Bressett in 1996. He provided transportation for members and would always volunteer to help arrange social as well as numismatic functions of the clubs. Former MSNA board member Ernie Turnes said of him, "When I think of Bill, I can't help but think of all the positive things he did for our hobby and for me personally. He was a hard worker, active in his church, generous with his time, talents, and possessions, always looked out for the best interests of others and each of his clubs, and always willing to help. I think that more than anything, though, Bill was the consummate family man." Donald Curtis added "The one thing that stands out in my mind is when I once asked Bill Ayres what he collected and he told me 'I collect collectors'. I always remembered this; this is why he had so many friends." The MSNA Board made a donation to Ayre's church, Fork United Methodist, in his memory.

Mark Borckardt will give a talk on "Sixty Minutes at the First Mint" at the Whitman Expo at 2 PM on Friday, June 18, 2010 in the Baltimore Convention Center, room 301. His biography will appear in the Summer edition of *Maryland Numismatist*.

The December, 2009 issue of *The Numismatist* included a biography of Baltimore native Thomas Nielsen, a fourteen year-old numismatist who is active in the Early American Coppers club.

The Washington Numismatic Society (WNS) will show the ANA taped program "Tips on Getting Kids into Coins" by ANA Governor and MSNA member Walter Ostromecki at its March 16 meeting.

The MSNA exhibit area at the Whitman Baltimore Coin Expo in March held seven exhibits by six exhibitors.



Best of Show (1/4 oz. gold eagle): *Continental Currency - Signed by Adam Hubley of Lancaster, PA* by Gerald Kochel, showing eight notes (\$1 through \$8 of the May 9, 1776 issue).



Master (1/10 oz. platinum eagle): *Continental Currency February 26, 1777 - The So-Called Baltimore Issue* by Bill Stratemeyer, with examples of each denomination (eight in all) from \$2 to \$30.



Superior (1/10 oz. gold eagle): *A Brief History of Ballooning* by Sandra Emme, illustrating with medals the history of unpowered air flight from 1783 to date. This exhibit also won a Mexico 2½ peso gold coin from Maryland Token And Medal Society (MD TAMS) for best exonumia exhibit.

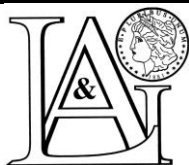
Appreciation Awards (exhibitor's choice of U.S. silver American eagle or MSNA 1988 silver and bronze medal set):

- *Early Elongated Coins of Baltimore* by Russ Sears.
- *A Zulu Love Token* by Simcha Kuritzky.
- *A Stellar Type Set* (coins, notes and medals portraying stars) by Simcha Kuritzky.
- *The Dickey Mill Centennial Medal* by Exhibit Chairman Bryce Doxzon (non-competitive).

The Perry Hall Con Club members voted to discontinue the club at their November 18 meeting.

The Montgomery County Coin Club (MCCC) raised \$650 in private donations and at their annual donated auction in December for the Silver Spring Boys' and Girls' Club. In January, they watched a presentation based on the Smithsonian's Spanish Coins exhibit. February's meeting was cancelled due to the blizzard, and Jonathan Obee, a professional staff member with the Financial Services Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives, addressed the March meeting on numismatic legislation and issues currently before Congress.

Dealer and MSNA member Julian Leidman will speak on the state of the numismatic hobby at MCCC's April 13 meeting and WNS's April 20 meeting.



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MCCC golden anniversary medals and history booklet available to the general public for \$20 (medal and booklet) or \$2 each for just the booklet (25% discount for members). See montgomerycoinclub.org or email the editor to order copies. Postage is \$1 for just the booklet or \$5 for medals.

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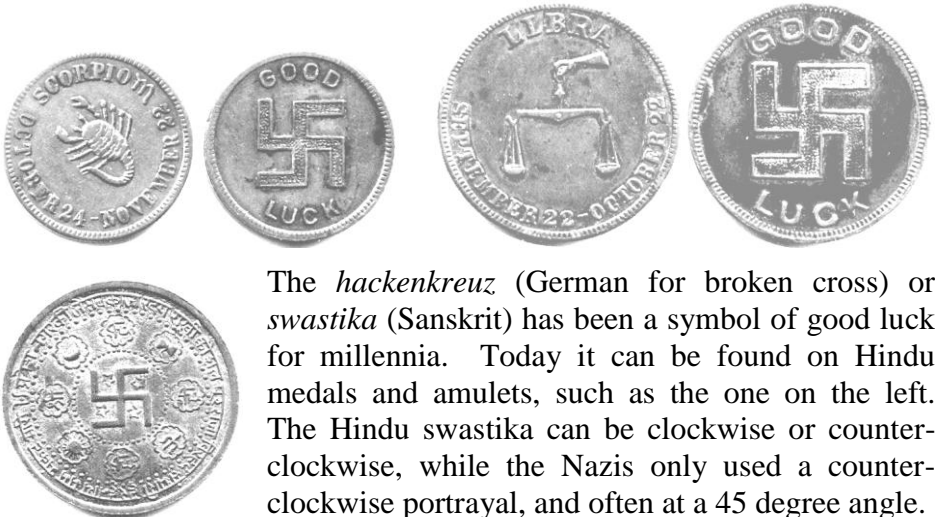
What's Your Sign?

Part Five: Early Zodiac and Related Good Luck Medals

by Simcha Kuritzky, NLG

There are many undated zodiac medals, but one can tell from the artistry generally what time period they are from. I have run into a couple of medals and other sundry items that are clearly early Twentieth Century, if not late Nineteenth.

This set of medals were issued in brass. I have only found these two and they are of different sizes: the Scorpio is 24.3mm and 5.8g, while the Libra is 30.5mm and 9g. The pictures below are to scale. The artistry looks like 1890-1920, and the use of a swastika for good luck ended abruptly in the late 1930s when Nazi Germany usurped that symbol. While different sizes, both medals have similar inscriptions. The reverses of both show a counterclockwise swastika with GOOD above and LUCK below. The obverse has the Latin name above and the full dates below. The small medal has SCORPIO and the sigil ♎, above and OCTOBER 24-NOVEMBER 22 below. The large medal has LIBRA (but no sigil) above and SEPTEMBER 22-OCTOBER 22 below.



The *hackenkreuz* (German for broken cross) or *swastika* (Sanskrit) has been a symbol of good luck for millennia. Today it can be found on Hindu medals and amulets, such as the one on the left. The Hindu swastika can be clockwise or counterclockwise, while the Nazis only used a counterclockwise portrayal, and often at a 45 degree angle.

The Nazi connection to the swastika started in the early 1800s with the formulation of racism as part of anthropology. German racists formed a group called the Anti-Semite League (Antisemitenbund) in 1879, and adopted the Indian symbol of the swastika as their symbol. Hitler

adopted the symbol and it became part of the official German flag after he was appointed Chancellor in 1933.



However, the swastika was still used by non-fascists as a good luck symbol, though sometimes it was mirror-imaged to distinguish it from the Nazi version. Here are two sample medals. The first medal combines the "Aryan" swastika with the "Semitic" hexagram, known as a Seal of Solomon to Arabs and a Shield (sometimes incorrectly as Star) of David to Jews. The message is purely economic (The End of the Depression; Stop Crying and Start Buying) and the *hackenkreuz* is pierced by a four-leaf clover, so the use of these two symbols may have only reflected their use since ancient times as good luck symbols.



The second piece was probably made in the 1930s and has the swastika reversed, with a four-leaf clover, horseshoe, wishbone, and Egyptian hieroglyphs in the openings of the swastika. The inscription is WE INVITE YOU TO OPEN A CHARGE ACCOUNT. The other side indicates it was issued by Benjamin Goldstein, probably Jewish and so he reversed the swastika.

Going back to early zodiac pieces, I think the medals at the beginning of this column are from the 1910s or 20s based on the artwork, though they could be as late as 1939. We really don't see Western medals using a good luck swastika after then. I suspect there are other zodiac medals from before 1930; I just haven't found them yet. I have found other



zodiac items. The celluloid medal, which looks like a pin back which someone stuffed a piece of plastic inside instead of a metal pin, is dated 1915 and shows many correspondences for Virgo and the ruling planet Mercury. There are also cigarette trading cards from this period with zodiac themes. Pictured are sample fronts and backs from De Reszke and Wills's Cigarettes.

De Reszke issued a fifty-card series just on astrology, including lucky magic squares associated with the planets. Wills series was on various kinds of lucky charms, including zodiac.

DE RESZKE Cigarettes



THE ZODIAC

WHAT THE STARS SAY

By Graphael

No. 1

THE ZODIAC

The canopy of heaven is divided into twelve equal parts known as Houses or Mansions, on which the twelve signs of the Zodiac mark the commencement of each one. The positions of these Houses are shown by Roman characters in the diagram. The elliptic is divided into 360 degrees, the starting point being at ARIES. The following is the order of the Signs and their degrees.

Aries 0°, Taurus 30°, Gemini 60°, Cancer 90°, Leo 120°, Virgo 150°, Libra 180°, Scorpio 210°, Sagittarius 240°, Capricorn 270°, Aquarius 300°, Pisces 330°.

There are nine planets (the Sun and the Moon being reckoned planets in astrology), and they are situated in one or other of the Signs of the Zodiac, but each planet has its own domicile. See Card No. 2.

A Series of 50 Cards

WILLS' CIGARETTES.



ARIES - THE RAM.

WILLS' CIGARETTES
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LUCKY CHARMS

Aries, the Ram.
First sign of the Zodiac, March 21st to April 20th. Mars the ruling planet, and from the correct metal. Those born under the influence of Aries were supposed to be brave, ambitious, optimistic, confident, and fond of adventure. The Aries gemstone is the Diamond, Jasper and Bloodstone. The Diamond was always regarded with much veneration in olden times, and was worn to make the wearer bold and daring. Napoleon Bonaparte had the celebrated "Regent," or "Pitt" Diamond (136 carats, valued at about £200,000) set in the hilt of his sword. At one time it was believed that the wearing of very large Diamonds brought ill-luck and misfortune on the wearer.

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Other companies issued zodiac cards. To the left is a Capricorn card issued by the Exhibit Supply Company of Chicago in 1925. It was probably one of a series, though it's not numbered. The ink is dark blue. It may have been sold on its own or from a machine where you set a dial to your birth date.

Since most zodiac medals are undated, it's hard to pinpoint when they were issued. I'm reasonably certain these are the only ones in my collection from before 1930. There was an explosion of zodiac medals once the Great Depression was under way, and we'll look at those starting with the next installment.

ASTROLOGY READING
Dec. 10th to 17th

You have much native intelligence, with a faculty almost prophetic. You are direct in your decision and aim. You always hit the mark. You have a strong imagination, and are apt to overstate things. You can be and are likely to be a pessimist. In fact you are a sort of physical and mental prophet. It is not to be assumed that all your darker musings will prove actual revelations of inevitable harm, but you can be of great use to those of your friends who know how to appreciate the gift you possess. You are rather proud, self satisfied, self confident. You are capable and have a keen, brilliant intellect. Public affairs interest you and you watch the course of events with an understanding and psychic comprehension that is often prophetic. You are fond of amusement and pleasure and like to have company on your excursions. You are thoughtful of others and if a day's pleasure is on your program, you look up some less favored individual to share it with you. You have rather large ideas in business. You can be passionate and excitable, but are usually cool, collected and a desirable companion.

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All shows have free admission. Only the Whitman show does not have free parking.

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28 Mar. – Annapolis Coin and Currency Show, Knights of Columbus Hall, 2590 Solomon's Island Road (Route 2), Edgewater; 9-4:30.

11 Apr.–Baltimore Friendly Monthly Stamp & Coin Show, Pikesville Hilton, 1726 Reisterstown Road, (I-695 exit 20) Pikesville; 10-4.

22 May–Baltimore Friendly Monthly Stamp & Coin Show, Pikesville Hilton, 1726 Reisterstown Road, (I-695 exit 20) Pikesville; 10-4.

6 June – Baltimore Area Numismatic Coalition Show, Holiday Inn, 1100 Cromwell Bridge Road, Towson; 9-4.

17-20 June – Whitman Baltimore Coin & Currency Convention, Baltimore Convention Center, 1 West Pratt Street; Thu 2-6, Fri-Sat 10-6, Sun. 10-3. MSNA Distinguished Lecturer June 18 at 1 PM.

27 June–Baltimore Friendly Monthly Stamp & Coin Show, Pikesville Hilton, 1726 Reisterstown Road, (I-695 exit 20) Pikesville; 10-4.

27 June – Annapolis Coin and Currency Show, Knights of Columbus Hall, 2590 Solomon's Island Road (Route 2), Edgewater; 9-4:30.

25 July –Baltimore Friendly Monthly Stamp & Coin Show, Pikesville Hilton, 1726 Reisterstown Road, (I-695 exit 20) Pikesville; 10-4.

15 Aug.–Baltimore Friendly Monthly Stamp & Coin Show, Pikesville Hilton, 1726 Reisterstown Road, (I-695 exit 20) Pikesville; 10-4.

19 Sept. – Annapolis Coin and Currency Show, Knights of Columbus Hall, 2590 Solomon's Island Road (Route 2), Edgewater; 9-4:30.

19 Sep.–Baltimore Friendly Monthly Stamp & Coin Show, Pikesville Hilton, 1726 Reisterstown Road, (I-695 exit 20) Pikesville; 10-4.

26 Sept. – Baltimore Area Numismatic Coalition Show, Holiday Inn, 1100 Cromwell Bridge Road, Towson; 9-4.

2-3 Oct. – CEO Coins, Currency & Treasurers Ocean City Show, Ocean City (Roland E. Powell) Convention Center, 4001 Ocean Highway & 40th Street, Ocean City; Fri.-Sat. 9-6; Sun. 9-4.

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